Police Modernisation Scheme, certain amount is being separately allocated for POLNET Scheme.

Inclusion of regional language in the eighth schedule of Constitution

*203.SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria for inclusion of a regional language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India;

(b) Whether there was demand for inclusion of 'Tulu' language in the Eighth Schedule, considering its rich cultural and historical value and for the fact that it is spoken by a vast number of people in Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and even to some extent in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No criteria has yet been laid down for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government have decided to set up a High Powered Body to evolve criteria for inclusion of languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. Issue of inclusion of Tulu language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution shall be considered in the light of criteria so evolved.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, kindly look at the reply given by the hon. Minister. The reply to part (c) of my question says, "The Government have decided to set up a High-Powered Body to evolve criteria for inclusion of languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution." The same reply was given, about ten months ago, while replying to a Private Member's Bill, moved by Dr. Karan Singh, who requested for inclusion of Dogri language in the Eighth Schedule to the

Constitution. Also, Dr. Singhvi, while moving his Private Member Bill, requested for inclusion of Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. While replying to this, the hon. Minister has given the same reply. It was about ten months back. But, till date, even after ten months, the hon. Minister has not been able to constitute a Committee. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has the commitment to fulfil the assurance given on the floor of this House. I don't think that he has got that commitment. So, will he kindly assure the House that he is going to set up a Committee very soon and bring the necessary amendments to the Act in the current Session itself?

SHRI I. D. SWAMI: Sir, what the hon. Member has said is quite correct. I had said so, while replying to a Private Members' Bill, moved by Dr. Karan Singh and Dr. L. M. Singhvi. We have made progress. There are so many departments, such as Department of Education, Department of Culture, Human Resources, etc., involved in this. All these departments are involved. We had asked them to suggest names for Chairman and Members. After that, two departments have not yet replied. We have given them the last data as 5th March, 2003. By then, if they do not send us the reply, we will finalise it. It is at the final stages. I assure the House that it will be finalised very soon.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, Tulu language has a literary history. You may kindly take into consideration the fact that one scholar, Robert Caldwell, who, way back in 1856, observed that a comparative grammar of Dravidian languages proved that Tulu has a place on par with Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu and Kannada. It is also an earliest offshoot of ancient Dravidian source language. The first Tulu dictionary was published in 1886—Manner Tulu-English Dictionary—and the second in 1967 by Madras University. The ancient literary works of Tulu...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, this question has already been replied.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: ...from 15th Century onwards have been discovered and published by Mangalore University. My submission is, the Government have, recently, included Konkani Language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. If the earlier fixed criteria are fulfilled, is it not enough now? So, why cannot the Government include Tulu, Rajasthani and also Dogri languages immediately in the Eighth Schedule?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you speak in Tulu?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, I do speak Tulu.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, question in Tulu.

SHRI I. D. SWAMI: Sir, the hon. Member has also written a letter in this connection to the then Law Minister on this subject and we are very much aware that this should be finalised very soon and we are in the final stages.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, who is also the Home Minister, is here. I would like to submit that for twenty years, Dogri has been waiting to be included in the Eight Schedule of the Constitution as a national language. Dr. Farooq Abdullah's Government supported. Dr. Mufti Mohammed Sayeed's Government has supported it. You are taking so much interest in resolving the problem of Jammu and Kashmir. You are appointing interlocutors. Everyday you make statements. Dogri language cannot and should not be lumped with other languages. I am not denigrating any other language. I would like to ask the hon. Home Minister whether he would take a step in this direction. This is the second largest language in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, spoken by lakhs of people. This step will be greatly appreciated there, and would help to redress regional imbalances. Would you please take special interest in the case of Dogri? I am aware of the procedures of the Government of India. They go on for years and years. The committees never report. I would like a response from Shri Advani, if possible, Sir.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): Sir, I fully appreciate the hon. Member's plea for Dogri. But, because this particular issue has become linked with the question of what are the criteria for accepting a language to be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, as for example, the earlier hon. Member insisted on Tulu language. I was just asking Mr. George about Tulu literature, etc. He appraised me of some things. Every language has its own reason and rationale why it should be included. I fully acknowledge what Dr. Karan Singh has said, particularly in the context of our keenness to resolve the

J&K issue, as such. We will take it into consideration, and would take an appropriate decision.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, probably it is a little repetition, but since there are no criteria, when languages like Nepali, Manipuri and Sindhi are there in the list, I don't understand why Rajasthani has not been included so far, Of course, you have replied something about it. But there are no criteria. Why has it been delayed? By what time would you be able to include it? Can you give a time-limit by which you would be able to take a decision in this regard.

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारूपाल: मैं इनकी बात का समर्थन करती हूं। यह राजस्थान में दूसरी बड़ी भाषा है।

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: I have already said that after the 5th March, this would be finalised. A high-powered Committee would be finalised after 5th of March. The problem arose because there are demands from 32 languages for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Naturally, an objective criteria would have to be evolved. That is why even the officers' committee met. They also gave some criteria. But, at the same time, they also recommended that an in-depth study will have to be made with the help of the academicians and specialists in this regard. That is why, this delay has taken place. But, now, I think, we are at the final stage, and we would be able to finalise it soon.

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने पांच मार्च दो बार कहा है तो यह पांच मार्च वे आज के लिए कह रहे हैं या अगले वर्ष के लिए आप इनसे यह क्लीयर करा लीजिए क्योंकि यह 32 भाषाओं का मामला है।

Child Abuse

*204. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:†

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the problem of child abuse, particularly sexual abuse is rampant in India;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhagatram Manhar.